

# PROPOSAL

**PUT FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE GROUPS OF AREA 82  
PROPOSED BY THE PICTOU HARBOUR GROUP, DISTRICT 7**

**WHEREAS:** Area 82 consists of 17 districts covering a land mass of 460,496 square kilometers, and,

**WHEREAS:** Our two provinces welcome almost 3,000,000 visitors per year, and,

**WHEREAS:** Many of the groups in Area 82 are in rural areas of our provinces, and,

**WHEREAS:** It is extremely difficult for people unfamiliar with our provinces to locate meetings relative to their location at any given time, and,

**WHEREAS:** The meeting list on the Area 82 website has no map for reference to location of meetings,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

Area 82 direct our webmaster to begin the process of making the Area 82 meeting list on the Area 82 website an interactive map, outlining the districts within a map of our provinces, and making the district meeting list available upon clicking that district on the map.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED THAT:** Area 82 provide all necessary support to the webmaster in this endeavour, including necessary financing, and if requested by the webmaster, a committee of members with the necessary skills to aid in the development and implementation of this interactive map.

**SO MOVED.**

District 17 Area 82 Proposal  
To be discussed at the 2019 Service week – ends  
Vote to take place at Area 82 Assembly 2019

PROPOSAL: Amend area 82 Guidelines to read as follows:

That all current DCM'S and past DCM'S along with sitting Area Officers be allowed to let their name stand for Area Officers providing they have not held that position in the past. All past DCM'S must have served a full 2 year term in Area 82. Past DCM'S will do a resume to show of their past and present Service in AA in Area 82. These resumes will be posted prior to the Elections for people to view.

Reason:

After a similar proposal at the 2018 Area 82 Assembly and after some discussion for and against, it was put to vote and was turned down by a close margin. I personally after the vote on our break had 2 sitting DCM'S and 8 or more GSR'S ask me what they had just voted on. They did not seem to understand. Looking in our Service Manual on page S-45 SUGGESTIONS ON CHAIRING ASSEMBLY MEETINGS it says: Keep issues clear. If a motion is offered, be sure it is stated clearly and distinctly so that all know what they are voting for or against. I felt there was a lot of confusion in the room and some people did not fully understand what they were voting on. As voting members we have the right to ask until we are sure. This is not to lay blame on anyone person. I think as an Area, we need to discuss important issues in such a way before a vote is taken, that every voting member is clear on what he or she is voting on. We need to slow down and think things through and be aware that some people may not be clear as they are new to their positions. I have given this a lot of thought before bringing this proposal to the table again. There are DCM'S who for circumstances beyond their control could not let their name stand for an Area Position at Election time. So why do we condemn these people from letting their name stand at a later Election Assembly. Remember they already have a understanding of A A Service in Area 82. These people have gone on to still be very active in Area 82, at Group, District and other levels of AA Service. Past DCM'S who have not been active, not only would people in their District know but also their resume will show this.

We follow our Service manual through all processes of the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Legacy Procedure (pg S-21 1<sup>st</sup> Paragraph Imp.), except who is allowed to let their name stand (Area 82 Guidelines). All service positions listed in the Area 82 Guidelines after a brief description of their duties, says also see the Service Manual for more details. Our Voting and Ballot procedure is followed by the Service Manual. Our Service Manual states that past and present DCM'S can let their name stand for Area Committee positions (pg.S38 - 6). I know Area needs certain Guidelines that pertain to our Area but our Service Manual is not something that was put together in a hurry, it was put together because it works especially the Election and voting process. I believe that when we do not allow people with the proper qualifications to let their names stand we are doing an injustice to our Area and also to the member who is willing and able to give his or her time to serve us in Area 82. At the Groups and District Levels we come to an informed decision and vote through the guidance of our higher power and working through us to make the vote or stance we take. By not allowing certain individuals to let their names stand, tells me we do not trust our higher power at the time to make the right choice to the right person for the Service Position. I hope you give this some serious thought so that in order for a Past DCM to let their name stand they do not have to go back through the process of GSR to DCM. They would have to run against people that are trying to get started at Group and District levels in order to serve on the Area 82 Committee. I trust at election time that our higher power works through the Area voting body with the information put forward, we will make the proper conscience vote and the proper person will serve us regardless of status.

This has been pasted by District 17 to move forward. Thank you and God Bless.

GSR Hantsport Group District 17

Gary Oickle

To: District 17 Committee, Area 82 Committee and Assembly; and, the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

From: Wolfville Group, District 17, Area 82

Date: May 11, 2018; Revised October 16, 2018

**RE: Concept XII, Possible Words Missing in First Paragraph Reference to Amendments to Steps, Traditions & Concepts – The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated, pamphlet P-8; and Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W., BM-31, Concept 12, page 60.**

I started to look in The A.A. Service Manual based on what I believed to be two words missing, “who respond” in pamphlet P-8 The Twelve Concepts of World Service Illustrated. On further consideration I thought P-8 was probably written based on the Twelve Concepts of World Service by Bill W., included in the A.A. Service Manual, BM-31, page 60, Concept XII description and it appears this might have been the case. With this in mind the following is offered for your consideration.

In pamphlet P-8, “The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated,” I believe there is an inaccuracy in the first paragraph in explaining Concept XII where it says that, “These General Warranties – like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions can be changed only by “written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups” in the world!

The wording is somewhat similar in BM-31 Twelve Concepts for world Service by Bill W., page 60, bottom paragraph referring to Article 12 of the Charter ... “An amendment or a cancellation of any of its vital Warranties would require the written consent of three-quarters of all the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals, and the considerable time of six months is allowed for careful deliberation. Although changes in the Warranties of Article 12 thus have been made difficult, they have not been made impossible.”

In referring to BM-31, “The A.A. Service Manual Combined With Twelve Concepts for World Service by Bill W.,” 2016 – 2018 Edition, I looked at the reference to amend the 12 Steps and 12 Traditions in the Conference Charter and the motion to accept the Charter as follows:

- A.) On page S104 we find, “But no change in Article 12 of the Charter or in the Twelve Traditions of A.A. or in the Twelve Steps of A.A. may be made with less than the written consent of three-quarters of the A.A. groups, as described in the Resolution adopted by the 1955 Conference and Convention.”
- B.) The referenced Resolution says on page S108, “That neither the Twelve Traditions of Alcoholics Anonymous nor the warranties of Article XII of the Conference Charter shall ever be changed or amended by the General Service Conference except by first asking the consent of the registered A.A. groups of the world ... And before any such Conference action can be taken, there must first be received in writing within the time allotted (six months) the consent of at least three-quarters of all those registered groups who respond to such proposal.”

C.) Further, at the bottom of page S108, with reference to foot note 12 which says, "12 Resolution: It was resolved by the 1976 General Service Conference that those instruments requiring consent of three-quarters of the responding groups for change or amendment would include the Twelve Steps of A.A., should any such change or amendment ever be proposed."

It is apparent by this resolution that the Twelve Steps could also be amended by the responding groups.

The quorum required is clearly based on the registered "groups who respond" or "responding groups," which is different than all the registered groups in the world. For example, if half of the registered groups respond within the six months then that is the quorum and the three-quarters consent is of those groups who respond.

In conclusion, it is suggested the pamphlet P-8 should be amended to accurately quote the Resolution which would be what the 1955 Conference and Convention intended and approved and would read as follows:

These General Warranties – like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions – can be changed only by "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups in the world who respond."

Similarly, the Twelve Concepts for World Service, in BM-31, would be amended to include the words "groups who respond" or "responding groups," which may be implied in the phrase, "All the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals."

This may all have been considered long ago and dealt with; however, if this observation is right, the implication of including the wording "groups who respond" or "responding groups" could make a difference in considering changes to our three Legacies and Warranties of A.A. although it would still be a monumental task requiring serious preliminary group conscience (district, area and conference) discussion.

The above is submitted for your consideration.

In Service to A.A.,

Pete L.

GSR, Wolfville Group, Wolfville, Nova Scotia,

District 17, Area 82

On behalf of the Wolfville Group

# Concept XII

*General Warranties of the Conference: in all its proceedings, the General Service Conference shall observe the spirit of the A.A. Tradition, taking great care that the conference never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds, plus an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle; that none of the Conference Members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others: that all important decisions be reached by discussion vote and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that no Conference action ever be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that though the Conference may act for the service of Alcoholics Anonymous, it shall never perform any acts of government; and that, like the Society of Alcoholics Anonymous which it serves, the Conference itself will always remain democratic in thought and action.*

**T**his Concept consists of the General Warranties of the General Service Conference. It is cast in stone; that is, although Bill leaves the door open for alterations and changes in the other Concepts and points out that the rest of the Conference Charter

"can be readily amended," these General Warranties—like the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions—can be changed only by "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups" in the world!

Why?

Because "these Warranties indicate the qualities of prudence and spirituality which the Conference should always possess.... These are the permanent bonds that hold the Conference fast to the movement it serves."

The Warranties also express spiritual principles which apply to all other A.A. entities as well. Let us, then, consider these principles one by one:

**Warranty One:** "The Conference shall never become the seat of perilous wealth or power." The Seventh Tradition protects us against the accumulation of too much money. So long as we refuse to take outside contributions and limit individual member's donations, "we shall not become wealthy in any perilous sense." And if we live by

Tradition Two—that "our ultimate authority is a loving God" and that "our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern"—then we are safe from perilous power.

**Warranty Two:** "Sufficient operating funds, plus an ample Reserve, should be its prudent financial principle." Although many of us as active alcoholics were free spenders, when it comes to supporting "A.A. service overhead, we are apt to turn a bit reluctant." Yet, in A.A. the cost of the service office is relatively low in terms of the number of groups served, and if the need for support is made clear, the contributions are forthcoming. The Reserve Fund should be one full year's operating expenses of the G.S.O. and the *Grapevine*. The Reserve Fund comes almost entirely from income from the sale of A.A. literature, which also is used to make up the deficit between group contributions and the cost of group services.

**Warranty Three:** "None of the Conference members shall ever be placed in a position of unqualified authority over any of the others." This principle is discussed earlier in Concept IV, but "it is so important, we have made it the subject of this

**Re: Apparent Error in Pamphlet P-8 The Twelve Concepts for World Service Illustrated**

**Steve S.** <steves@aa.org>

to me

Dear Pete,

Greetings from the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous in New York City! My name is Steve Smith, and I am a GSO staff member. My current duties include serving the Literature assignment as well as responding to inquiries from the Southeast Region, I am glad to be in touch.

Pete thank you for the great care and consideration with which you have read A.A. literature. Please know that your concern will be reviewed with A.A.W.S. Publishing. We appreciate your input.

Let me know if there is any other way, we might be helpful.

Sincerely,

Steve Smith

GSO Staff

Steve S." <steves@aa.org>,

Groupservices [groupservices@aa.org](mailto:groupservices@aa.org)

**From:** [noreply@aa.org](mailto:noreply@aa.org) <[noreply@aa.org](mailto:noreply@aa.org)>

**Sent:** Monday, October 22, 2018 4:04 PM

**To:** Literature <[literature@aa.org](mailto:literature@aa.org)>

**Subject:** Possible Error in Pamphlet P-8 The Twelve concepts for World Service Illustrated

Here is your copy of a message sent via an [aa.org](http://aa.org) webform to the Literature Assignment at G.S.O.

**Name:** Pete Lawton

**Location:** Wolfville, Nova Scotia

**Phone:** 902 542-9710

**Email:** [peteandpat9@gmail.com](mailto:peteandpat9@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Possible Error in Pamphlet P-8 The Twelve concepts for World Service Illustrated

**Message:** On the advice of Racy Joseph to my friend Gary O. who attended the recent Area 82 Assembly in Corner Brook, Newfoundland I am imbedding my memo describing what I believe to be missing information in the P-8 pamphlet below

Yours in Service,

Pete Lawton

To: District 17 Committee, Area 82 Committee and Assembly; and, the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous.

From: Wolfville Group, District 17, Area 82

Date: May 11, 2018; Revised October 16, 2018

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The above is submitted for your consideration.

In Service to A.A.,  
Pete L. GSR, Wolfville Group,  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia,  
District 17, Area 82  
On behalf of the Wolfville Group

Name: Ames Sweet  
Email: [sweeta@aa.org](mailto:sweeta@aa.org)

31 Oct 2018, 17:26

Dear Pete,

Steve S. on the Literature desk passed along your email and his recent response. I also wanted to chime in – initially just to thank you for taking the time to examine this matter in depth. You are one of our many eagle-eyed readers, without whom we'd be bound to miss any number of the unfortunate errors that are inadvertently sprinkled across our literature. However, in this case, I can say that while you are absolutely correct in your assessment of the requirement to establish a "quorum" for how the Step and Traditions could possibly be changed, the statement in the P-8 pamphlet is not entirely in error. That pamphlet, in particular, was never intended to be a strict recitation of the many powerful principles articulated in the XII Concepts; it was designed as a "quick reference" – an illustrated, easy-to-read digest of the Concepts. It was never intended to take the "official" place of the Concepts or compete with them in anyway. ("The Twelve Steps Illustrated" and "The Twelve Traditions Illustrated" are similar in this regard – intended to be



summaries, lacking in some details from the originals.) And so, if push ever came to shove, and we as a Fellowship found ourselves on the brink of changing either the Steps or Traditions, the process, as you have noted, would necessitate the "written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups in the world who respond." This would be the quorum upon which the issue would be decided, not the summarized process noted in the pamphlet: written consent of three-quarters of all A.A. groups "in the world."

Additionally, you mentioned the way the matter is addressed in the Service Manual, though it seems you answered your own question, as the phraseology used in the Service Manual essentially covers the same territory as is intended by the 1955 Conference and Convention. As you have noted, the full procedure is implied in the phrase, "All the directory-listed A.A. groups who would actually vote on any such proposals."

I will certainly admit that it can be a little confusing to have essentially the same thing said slightly differently in numerous different sources, yet, when were we alcoholics ever considered to be particularly consistent?

I guess the good news in all of this is that the idea of changing the basic principles that unite us and keep us moving forward in our primary purpose, while *possible* to change if we really had to, are so deeply ingrained in each one of us that such an arduous and painstaking process seems gratefully a long way off.

So again, Pete, I just wanted to add my voice of gratitude for your willingness to look into this matter. We appreciate your commitment -- and your eagle eye!

With all best wishes,

Ames S.

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Ames Sweet  
Managing Editor, GSO  
475 Riverside Drive  
New York, New York 10115  
212-870-3134  
[sweeta@aa.org](mailto:sweeta@aa.org)  
Website: [aa.org](http://aa.org)

**Pat & Pete Lawton** <peteandpat9@gmail.com>

to sweeta, steves

Thank you, Ames & Steve, for your reply's.

Ames, I'm glad I've got it right because for years I was of the belief it was 3/4's of all the registered groups in the world. I have read the Service Manual several times over the years and never picked up on "who respond." I trust I can pass on your response to my group, District 17 and Area 82. I suspect they might be interested.

Sincerely,

Pete

**Proposal from Recovery Group, District 15  
Passed by District 15, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

**"It is moved that Area 82 develop and implement a Public Information capacity on an area wide basis. This initiative would supplement/support the public information efforts occurring at the District level e.g. may include creation of an area PI Committee, area promotion in cooperation with districts, implement PI initiatives on an area wide basis, etc."**

George S. GSR  
Recovery Group  
(000150378)

Tim's Proposal:

July 16<sup>th</sup> 2018

Hi All,

After listening to the discussion at both Service Weekends I feel compelled to make changes to my proposal. The amended proposal reads as follows.

I propose starting with the elections being held at the Area Assembly in 2020 that we elect our Area officers in the following manner.

We elect our Delegate and Alternate Delegate from the sitting Area Officers and Sitting D.C.M.'s (must have held D.C.M. Position for at least six months).

We elect the following Area Officers from sitting D.C.M.'s (must have held D.C.M. Position for at least six months) who let their name stand, and accept nominations from the floor. Those nominees will be past Area 82 D.C.M.'s and past Area 82 officers who have not held the position previously. ( Past Delegates May not stand for any position ). Those nominees will give a brief update on the Service Activities since their time in Service to Area.

Note: Members must be present to let their name stand.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tim Milligan  
P67 Delegate  
Area 82 NS/NL  
Policy/ Admissions